

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INDICATORS FOR CALIFORNIA (EPIC)



INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT, PLANS AND EFFORTS TO DATE

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What is an environmental indicator?

- A measure that presents scientifically based information on environmental conditions.
- An indicator has a significance extending beyond that directly associated with the parameter measured.



Previous Efforts at Cal/EPA

- *Annual Environmental Report and Message of the Governor*
- *Environmental Indicators Report*

Examples of environmental indicators:

- # of days over ozone standard
- % of water bodies supporting beneficial uses
- volume of hazardous wastes generated
- municipal waste diversion rates



Environmental indicators as new tools for Cal/EPA

Environmental indicators as part of the strategic planning process: “managing toward environmental results”

- ❖ formulating policy
- ❖ allocating resources for maximum value
- ❖ making adjustments to priorities



Types of Indicators

Mission-based

assess status and trends associated
with the agency's mission

= **Environmental Indicators**

for Cal/EPA



Cal/EPA Strategic Goals

www.calepa.ca.gov/Publications/Reports/stratplans/2000

- Goal 1:** Air that is healthy to breathe, sustains and improves our ecosystems and preserves natural and cultural resources.
- Goal 2:** Rivers, lakes, estuaries and marine waters that are fishable, swimmable, support healthy ecosystems and other beneficial uses.
- Goal 3:** Groundwater that is safe for drinking and other beneficial uses.
- Goal 4:** Communities that are free from unacceptable human and ecological risks due to exposure from hazardous substances and other potential harmful agents.
- Goal 5:** Reduce or eliminate the disproportionate impacts of pollution on low-income and minority populations.
- Goal 6:** Ensure the efficient use of natural resources.



Environmental Protection Indicators for California

Directive:

OEHHA to collaboratively develop environmental indicators for Cal/EPA

Project's first year goal:

To develop a process for identifying environmental indicators and an initial set of indicators using an open, participatory process involving various collaborators.

Report entitled, *A Framework for Cal/EPA's Environmental Indicator System*



Benefits of EPIC

Communicate the condition of the environment to the public

Assess outcomes of environmental compliance and pollution prevention for regulated community

Results-based management system for setting priorities and allocating resources

Process for identifying emerging issues or new monitoring needs

EPIC Collaborators

Project staff

Develop Report

- OEHHA
- Cal/EPA BDOs
- Dept. Health Svcs
- Resources Agency
- US EPA

Advisory groups

Input on Project

Interagency Advisory Group

- Cal/EPA BDOs
- Resources Agency
- Dept. Health Svcs
- US EPA
- Others

External Advisory Group

- non-profit groups
- local government
- private sector
- UC/CSU

Contractors

Environmental indicator consultant

*Assist in design and
implementation of indicator
development process*

Cal/EPA strategic vision consultant

*Ensure Framework is
consistent with Cal/EPA
needs*

Stakeholder coordinator

*Coordinate advisory
group/ public input*



Input into EPIC Project

- Today's conference
- Advisory group workshops
- EPIC web site:
www.oehha.ca.gov/multimedia/epic/index.html



EPIC: Efforts to Date

Phase I

Project initiation

- enlist project staff
- review of literature
- plan EPIC conference

Phase II

Development of “environmental indicator framework”

- “issue structure”
- criteria for indicator selection
- process



EPIC: Next steps

- Phase III*** Indicator selection
- identification of priority issues
 - selection of indicators
- Phase IV*** Indicator development, report preparation and publication



EPIC: Next steps

Maintenance of EPIC system

- continuous public input and comment on indicator system
- ongoing project staff evaluation, validation and updating of indicator system
- annual evaluation by boards/departments to ensure consistency with strategic plans

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